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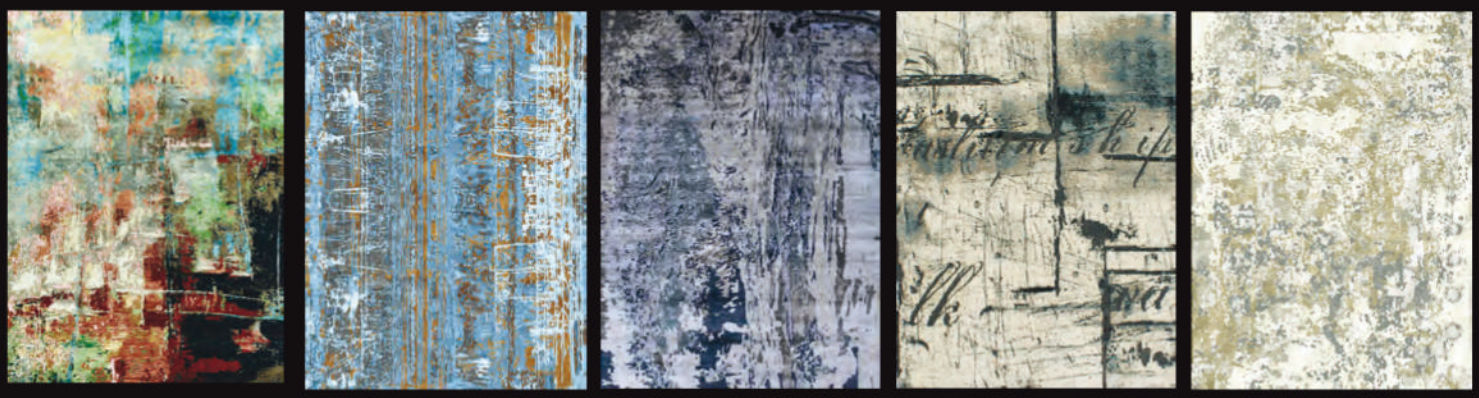

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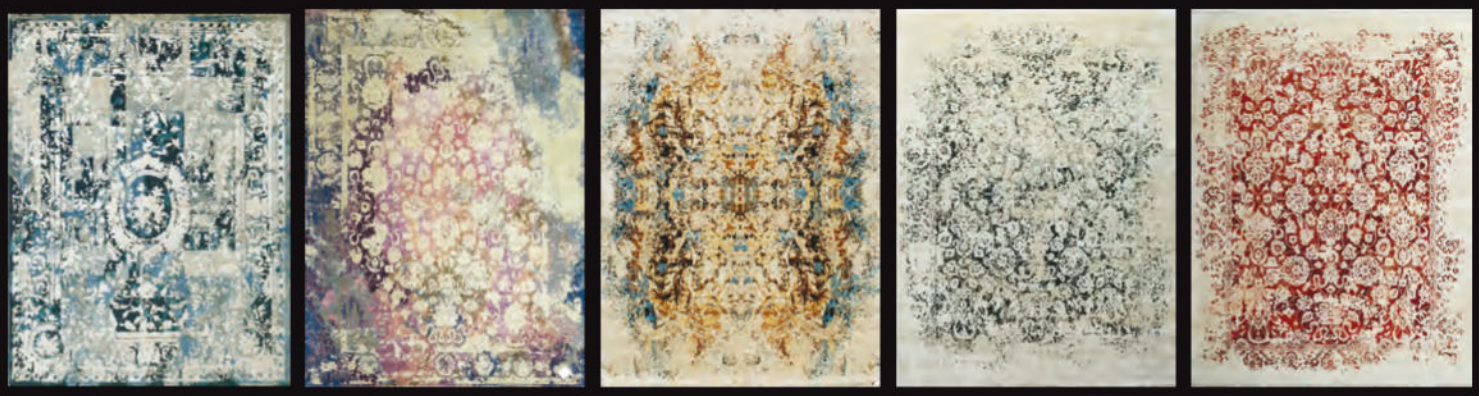

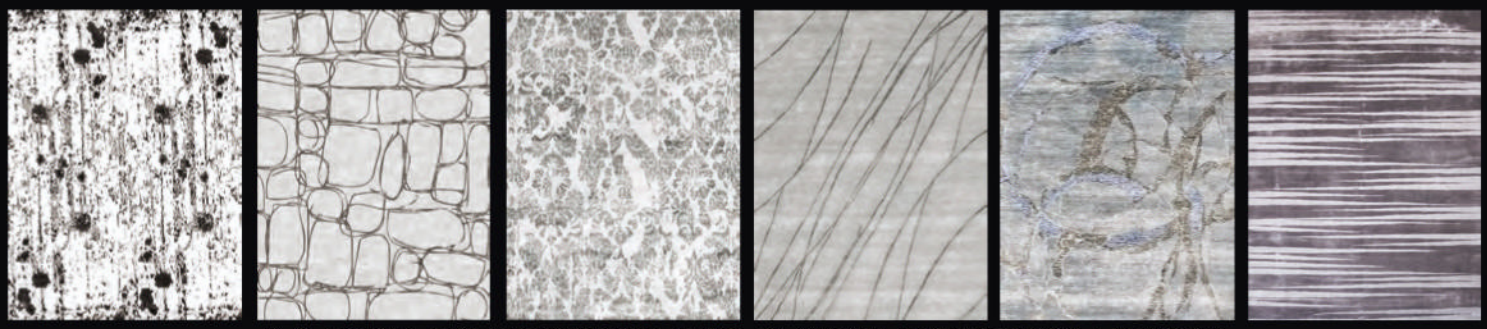

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Pictured:

The Larenzo Rustique Dining Table.

Not pictured:

The dog, waiting patiently for the inevitable rolling meatball.

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Add personality to your kitchen by displaying an elegant framed print on an open shelf.

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TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
A neutral living room springs to life thanks to subtle hits of lavender and glossy gold **76**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Stacey Van Berkel

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home BASE

With the arrival of spring comes the inevitable mushrooming of For Sale signs in my neighbourhood. As a direct consequence, I walk my dogs more frequently and for longer periods of time as I hunt down what's new on the market – my husband calls me a real estate stalker. I spend my time examining (from the sidewalk, of course) each of the houses on offer. I imagine what the building might look like inside, and I make note of who the agent is so that I can take the virtual tour of the listing when I get home.

It was on one of these walks six years ago that I found my current home. It was April 2010 and the weather was unseasonably balmy. My husband and I were wandering through our neighbourhood and turned onto a quiet street we weren't familiar with. And there it was – the house of our dreams. Partially obscured by a veritable forest of century-old oak trees, the imposing Tudor Revival dwelling was everything we were looking for. Best of all, there was a For Sale sign on the front lawn bearing the name and website of the real estate agent. Within seconds I was on my phone scrolling through the virtual tour. It wasn't difficult to visualize our family living there – stepdaughters doing their homework in the open-concept kitchen, dogs running in the backyard of the ravine lot and all of us pitching in and putting up our Christmas tree in the living room.

I still get a thrill when I drive down the street and turn onto my driveway. The house is as magical now as it was the day my husband and I first saw it. There have been some renovations here and there but, just as I had imagined, homework is done at the kitchen island, two happy dogs play in the backyard and fir needles still hide in the living room rug from last year's Christmas tree.

Erin

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TRUE **BLUE**

I recently spoiled myself with a *Style at Home* subscription, and every issue so far has been full of great ideas. The bold blue trend seen throughout the February 2016 issue was a big source of inspiration. I ended up finding an amazing cobalt blue ikat-print wallpaper for a feature wall in our dining area. One roll and about two hours of labour later, we finally have a pop of colour and pattern in our home. Next up is painting the kitchen island. Thanks for never failing to deliver!

JENNA, VIA EMAIL

MAKING **HISTORY**

I love your magazine! During our kitchen reno, my husband and I created a feature wall (shown above) using brick we salvaged from the 150-year-old farmhouse where my mom was born. It was torn down decades ago, and these lovely bricks lay tangled in weeds where the home once stood. The wall adds rustic warmth to our space, and my mom was absolutely floored when it was unveiled to her as a surprise. In order to make our home more meaningful, we do our best to incorporate pieces from our families' heritage.

LORRAINE ALLARD, VIA EMAIL

SMALL **WONDERS**

I've been a subscriber for many years and recently renewed my subscription. While I enjoy every article, I particularly love the High or Low column and anything involving a small space, especially when the floor plan is included. They certainly help those of us who live in smaller homes or condos. Thanks for a great Canadian magazine.

J.M. WOOLLEY, WINNIPEG

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Beauti-Tone **LEMON DRIZZLE** B21-4-0834-0, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.

SKYLIGHT 205, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

Valspar **VERY BERRY** 1002-1A, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

TADPOLE GREEN 6134-63, Sico Paint, sico.ca.

HELLO, YELLOW

Nothing says welcome like a sunny yellow front door. The bevy of bright botanicals further livens up the scene, while the blue-grey siding mellows everything out.

PHOTOGRAPHY, BRITTANY AMBRIDGE/DOMINO; DESIGN, HEATHER TAYLOR, HEATHERTAYLORHOME.COM

GLOBAL GEAR

Canada's own Davina Nathan travels the world, creating bold, colourful patterns marked by quirky brush strokes. Some of her sunniest destinations, such as Mexico, informed the six outdoor toss cushions she designed for Canvas.

Canvas outdoor **TOSS CUSHIONS,** $15 each, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Kelly Wearstler named her coastally influenced collection Terra Firma, Latin for "solid earth."

KELLY DOES CALI

Kelly Wearstler is a decor daredevil, and we love her for it, but the Californian offers up notably understated patterns in her new beachy indoor-outdoor fabric collection. The iconic designer's signature exuberance is still evident but on a slightly smaller scale and in more subdued hues, amounting to **TEXTILES AS LIVABLE AS THEY ARE LOVABLE.**

Kelly Wearstler Terra Firma Textiles acrylic Balboa **FABRIC** in Smoke, $436 per yard, through designers, Lee Jofa, leejofa.com.

HAUSER WOWZER

CANADIAN LUXURY FURNISHER HAUSER HAS LAUNCHED A LINE OF FIRE FEATURES, SO YOU CAN GET A TOASTY AND STYLISH HEAD START ON LIVING ALFRESCO.

Composite concrete Urth **FIRE BOWL** with natural ethanol, $2,995, Hauser Company Stores, hauserstores.com.

"My designs are fully inspired by travel," says Davina Nathan, "and I do bring my paints when I travel."

PEANUT GALLERY

This mango wood-topped metal side table is cause for some serious revelling, and not just because of its shapely cage-like base. This trendy piece is sold at none other than budget big box Walmart.

Tide Pool powder-coated iron **SIDE TABLE,** $70, Walmart, walmart.ca.

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Six new exterior-friendly modern pieces to elevate your patio, deck or balcony this season.

Plunge into chic sunbathing with this sleek polyester lounger (pool optional).

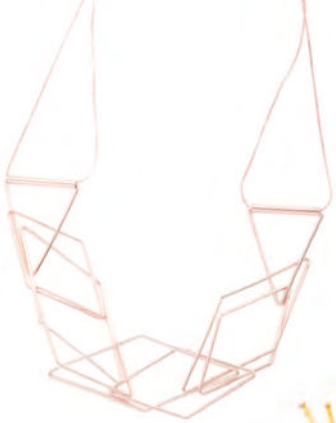
1. Canvas Montmarte **STRING LIGHTS,** 28′, $90, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. **2.** Garden Treasures market **UMBRELLA** in Navy, 9′, $99, Lowe's, lowes.ca. **3.** Faceted ceramic **PLANTERS,** $20 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca. **4.** Polyester Idle **LOUNGER** in Black, $499, CB2, cb2.ca. **5.** Steel-framed glass Dunley **LANTERNS,** from $70 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. **6.** Powder-coated aluminum and resin wicker Colorblock **ARMCHAIR,** $559, West Elm, westelm.com.

Welcome to outdoor living

For 65 years, Permacon has been building the living space of your dreams in perfect harmony with its surroundings. By combining craftsmanship and cutting-edge methods, Permacon brings together aesthetics and expertise. Surpass the boundaries of your home and enjoy your outdoor space by creating an environment dedicated to your well-being and comfort.

DISCOVER A WORLD OF INSPIRATION AT **PERMACON.CA**

PERMACON
THE HARMONY OF SPACE



1

Style a coffee table with trendy star sculptures.

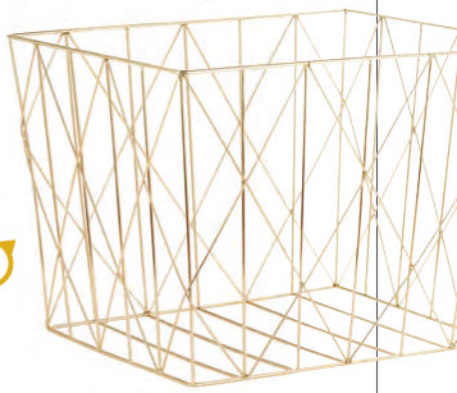
2

3

gold wire

Fashioned from warm metals formed into eye-catching geometric designs, these origami-esque pieces have edge. **PRODUCER** AMANDA ETTY

Stash sightly storage in this stylish basket.



4

inspiration

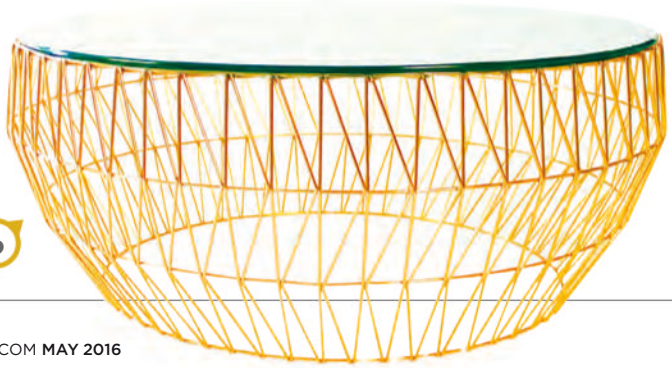
With its intricate criss-cross pattern and pops of metallic sequins, Hervé Léger by Max Azria's fancy frock echoes this month's trend.

Hang a statement mirror in lieu of artwork.

8

7

5



6

1 Flexible tube **NECKLACE,** $59, Cos, cosstores.com.

2 Foldable star **SCULPTURES** in Bronze, from $24 US each, KO Sticks, kosticks.com.

3 Array **PENDANT LIGHT** in Gold, $675 US, Bend Goods, bendgoods.com.

4 Large gold wire **BASKET,** $17, Walmart, walmart.ca.

5 Large Trigg **WALL VESSEL,** $40, Umbra, umbra.com.

6 **COFFEE TABLE** in Gold with glass top, 36", $2,000 US, Bend Goods, bendgoods.com.

7 Hex **WINE RACK,** $68 US, Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com.

8 Wire **MIRROR,** $70, Walmart, walmart.ca.

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AIR CANADA

Dine under a canopy of twinkle lights at Old Town Tortilla Factory

Check out the huge selection of Mid-Century Modern furniture at Modern Manor.

ARIZONA

EDITOR'S ITINERARY: Scottsdale

Style at Home executive editor Suzanne Moutis soaks up the sun in this fun and friendly luxurious desert retreat.

Number of days to spend here

3+

Day 1

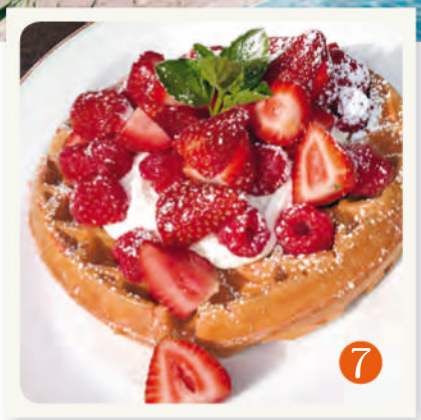
Book yourself into the **Hotel Valley Ho (5),** a contemporary oasis of mid-century cool in the centre of **Downtown Scottsdale.** Built in 1956, the hotel has played host to a number of celebrity guests (Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood had their first wedding reception here) who have frolicked among the pools and palm trees. Refurbished in 2005, the hotel reopened with the addition of a restaurant, spa and event venues. Start your stay with a meal at **ZuZu (7),** the hotel's seriously stylish eatery. I had strawberry waffles served with balsamic syrup and whipped mascarpone. Yum!

Take the rest of the day to stroll through Scottsdale's downtown district, filled with boutique shops, an entire street of art galleries, a working livery and restaurants both casual and fancy. Have a beer – or better yet, a glass of the Awesome Possum punch, made with bourbon, lemon juice, peach nectar and mint – by the outdoor fireplace at **The Montauk (1).** Then head over to **Old Town Tortilla Factory (3),** located in a historic 75-year-old adobe house, for a Mexican dinner on its patio strung with twinkle lights.

Day 2

Get up early and join the morning hikers that trek up **Camelback Mountain (2)** for spectacular views of the region. Don't forget to bring sun protection and lots of water. Go for a drive up North 7th Avenue in neighbouring Phoenix and check out all the vintage, retro and salvage shops. My favourite is **Modern Manor (4),** a warehouse filled to the brim with all things Mid-Century Modern at very reasonable prices. Also visit **Modern on Melrose, Sweet Salvage** and **Retro Ranch.** If you've worked

PHOTOGRAPHY, ALAMY (CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN)



up an appetite, continue north and then west to **Restaurant Atoyac Estilo Oaxaca** for the best tacos you'll ever have (ignore the restaurant's sketchy-looking exterior – the food more than makes up for it). Head back to the hotel for a dip in the pool. After dinner, wander over to **Sugar Bowl,** a Scottsdale institution, for some ice cream.

Day 3

Take a **trail ride** into the Sonoran Desert to see the amazing flora and fauna the region has to offer. When you're back, stop for a quick bite at **Stax Burger Bistro,** where you can indulge in the signature sliders – and build your own mac and cheese! In the afternoon, drive over to **Taliesin West (6),** Frank Lloyd Wright's house and (now) school, to see how the master Arts and Craftsman lived and worked. Dress up and head to dinner at **Different Pointe of View** at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort and gaze at the spectacular sunset over North Mountain while you dine on some of the area's best cuisine.

Day 4 (optional)

If you have the luxury of a free day in Scottsdale, rent a car and drive out to the **Grand Canyon** for an experience you'll never forget. The canyon is about three-and-a-half hours away, but it's well worth the excursion to see this breathtaking American landmark. Take the route through the lovely town of Sedona and stop to eat here either on the way to the canyon or on your return.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ALAMY (TALIESIN WEST)

what to PACK

Look for casual-cool essentials to hang out in hip, healthy and happy Scottsdale.

sunscreen for lips

▶ Nivea SPF 30 Sun **LIP BALM,** $4 per pack of 2, Walmart, walmart.ca.

wildlife watchers

▼ Nikon Aculon T01 8x21 **BINOCULARS** in Blue, $76, Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

casual classics

◀ Denim **SHORTS** in Dark Von wash, $105, J.Crew, jcrew.com.

cool runners

▲ Ecco leather Soft 7 **SHOES** in Sulphur, $180, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

fresh skin savers

◀ Live Clean Refreshing **FACIAL WIPES,** $10, Walmart, walmart.ca.

thirst-quencher

◀ Bobble insulated **WATER BOTTLE** in Pear, $38, Indigo, indigo.ca.

PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

Hotel Valley Ho
hotelvalleyho.com

Downtown Scottsdale
downtownscottsdale.com

ZuZu
hotelvalleyho.com/zuzu

The Montauk
themontaukaz.com

Old Town Tortilla Factory
oldtowntortillafactory.com

Camelback Mountain
climbcamelback.com

Modern Manor
modernmanorstore.com

Modern on Melrose
modernonmelrosephx.com

Sweet Salvage
sweetsalvage.net

Retro Ranch
retroranch.net

Restaurant Atoyac Estilo Oaxaca
restaurantatoyac.com

Sugar Bowl
sugarbowlscottsdale.com

Trail Rides
experience-scottsdale.com

Stax Burger Bistro
staxburgerbistro.com

Taliesin West
franklloydwright.org

Different Pointe of View
tapatiocliffshilton.com/different-pointe-of-view-restaurant

Grand Canyon
nps.gov/grca

PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

kitchen cravings

We round up the latest and greatest appliances, kitchen gadgets and gourmet products to step up your barbecue game.

1 TAKE THE HEAT

Weber's latest charcoal grill is ready to feed a party, and with four colourful exterior options, it's dressed for the occasion, too.

Master-Touch charcoal **BARBECUE** in Ivory, $329, Weber, webercanada.ca.

2 SPICE IS RIGHT

Wildflower honey plus a mix of hot chili peppers equals a match made in sweet-and-spicy heaven. Featuring ingredients sourced from the Hudson Valley, this spicy honey is made and bottled in Brooklyn, N.Y. Use it to marinate meats and seafood, stir into dressings or even drizzle on ice cream – the possibilities are endless.

Bees Knees Spicy **HONEY,** $31, Old Faithful Shop, oldfaithfulshop.com.

Create a delicious alfresco meal – from appetizers to desserts – in Cuisinart's outdoor oven. The wood-burning oven can be used to roast or smoke meats, as well as to bake pizzas, breads and sweets.

Cuisinart outdoor **OVEN,** $1,500, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

3 ROAST OF THE TOWN

Expand your condiment selection with perfectly slow-roasted garlic (it makes everything delicious) using this glazed terracotta roaster in the oven. Spread warm cloves onto burger buns, or whisk one into a dressing.

GARLIC ROASTER, $15, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

4 EASY AS (PIZZA) PIE

Celebrate the pleasure of making pizza right in your own backyard. With a fine rosewood handle and smooth stainless steel surface, this generously sized pizza peel is designed to take your piping hot creation from grill to table.

PIZZA PEEL, $28, Indigo, indigo.ca.

perfect proportions

The 23" x 9" peel is made for handling large pies.

cocktail pick

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

Nothing beats enjoying a frosty beer alongside your favourite barbecued foods. This refreshing wine-barrel-aged ale feels fancy with its effervescent quality. A note of orange zest and a decadent vanilla finish make it an exceptional pairing for grilled seafood.

Sofie Belgian Style Farmhouse **ALE,** $10, Goose Island, gooseisland.com.

Cheesecake got Dressed Up for Easter

COCONUT JOY CHEESECAKE

What You Need

- 25 chocolate wafer cookies, finely crushed (about 1-1/4 cups)
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. sugar, divided
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 4 pkg. (250 g each) *Philadelphia* Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 4 eggs
- 2 oz. *Baker's* Semi-Sweet Chocolate, broken into small pieces
- 1 cup *Cool Whip* Whipped Topping (do not thaw)
- 1/2 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted

Make It

HEAT oven to 325°F.

COMBINE cookie crumbs, 2 Tbsp. sugar and butter. Press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

BEAT cream cheese and remaining sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in milk until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust.

BAKE 55 min. to 1 hour or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate cheesecake 4 hours.

MICROWAVE semi-sweet chocolate and *Cool Whip* in microwaveable bowl on HIGH 1 min.; whisk until chocolate is completely melted and mixture is well blended. Pour over cheesecake; top with coconut and nuts.

NOTHING ELSE *Tastes* LIKE

Get your oven mitts on more delicious recipes at **PhillyCanada.com**

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING TANYA ENG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MAYA VISNYEI | **PROP STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

One of our *favourite summertime desserts* makes its annual debut this issue, freshly decked out with a delectable *blackberry gelée* on top to set it apart from its more pedestrian competition. We couldn't be happier to see the *seasonal advent* of fruit-based desserts start its yearly parade.

blackberry cheesecake bars

It makes hot soup. Cold sorbet.
Then, it cleans itself. Mom would be proud.

Unparalleled performance and unmatched versatility are just a few reasons why a Vitamix blender is one of the world's most coveted kitchen appliances. This Mother's Day, show your appreciation by giving her a machine that works (almost) as hard as she does. Vitamix. Engineered to change your life.

Learn more at vitamix.ca/mothersday.

Vitamix.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter an 8" square baking pan; line with a piece of parchment paper to extend up two sides and set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, almonds, brown sugar and melted butter. Press firmly into the bottom of the prepared pan in an even layer using a glass or your fingers. Bake in the oven for 7 minutes; let cool.

Meanwhile, in a food processor, blend together the cream cheese, mascarpone, eggs and sugar until smooth. Pour the mixture over the graham cracker crust and return to the oven; bake until the filling is set but the centre is still slightly wobbly, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 2 hours at room temperature.

To make the blackberry gelée, purée 2 cups of the blackberries with the sugar and the lemon juice in a blender; strain the mixture into a small saucepan and simmer over medium-low heat to reduce the liquid by a third and form a syrup. Sprinkle the gelatin over ¼ cup water to swell; stir into the blackberry syrup until the gelatin is dissolved. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes, then pour the syrup over the cheescake; garnish with the remaining blackberries. Refrigerate, uncovered, for at least 3 hours. To serve, slice the cake in half, then slice each half into five equal bars.

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 10

Crust

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup sliced almonds
- 2 tbsp light brown sugar
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

Filling

- 1 250-g package cream cheese
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup granulated sugar

Blackberry Gelée

- 3 cups blackberries, divided
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tbsp gelatin

Apple Cranberry Crisp | 11 g of fibre
Chicken Parmesan | 5 g of fibre
Ultimate Burger | 11 g of fibre
Good things come from
Kellogg's
All-Bran
allbran.ca/recipes
/allbranca
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TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI
PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

blooming BALCONIES

Decorator and blogger Tim Lam livens up two tiny outdoor spaces with playful touches, resulting in different (but equally ravishing) looks.

A PREDOMINANTLY PINK AND MINT GREEN PALETTE LENDS THIS BALCONY A FRESH LOOK, WHILE THE MIX OF GRAPHIC PATTERNS SEEN IN THE CUSHIONS AND RUG BOOSTS ITS VISUAL APPEAL. THE BOLD RUG ALSO CONCEALS THE CONCRETE FLOOR UNDERNEATH.

LOOK 1 PRETTY & PREPPY

Outdoor **ARMCHAIRS, FOLDING SCREEN, STOOL, BASKET,** HomeSense; **SIDE TABLE,** CB2; **RUG,** West Elm; **SEAT CUSHION FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics; **SEAT CUSHION SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Caitlin Wilson; **GLASSES,** Indigo.

A DECORATIVE INDOOR SCREEN TAMES THIS BALCONY'S BOSSY BRICK WALL, WHILE WARM WOODEN ELEMENTS LIKE THE OUTDOOR FLOOR TILES AND CHAIR LEGS COMPLEMENT THE WALL'S DEEP RED HUE. TROPICAL ACCENTS, FROM THE TOSS CUSHIONS TO THE STRING LIGHTS, INTRODUCE A PLAYFUL NIGHT-MARKET VIBE.

TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SUMMER MONTHS, DECORATOR TIM LAM INCLUDED A ROW OF PLANTERS BURSTING WITH VIBRANT YELLOW AND BLUE BLOOMS. THE SHOWY CONTAINERS HELP CREATE PRIVACY AND DISTRACT FROM THE VIEW OF NEIGHBOURING BUILDINGS.

LOOK 2 SHARP & SOPHISTICATED

Outdoor **ARMCHAIRS, RUGS, PLANTERS, LANTERN,** HomeSense; outdoor **FLOOR TILES,** IKEA; **SEAT CUSHION FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics; **SEAT CUSHION SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Tonic Living; **GLASS,** Indigo.

8 top tips from decorator Tim Lam to make your balcony shine

1. THINK OF YOUR BALCONY as an extension of your living room and put just as much effort into its design.

2. FOCUS ON HUES that coordinate with your home's interior.

3. MAXIMIZE FUNCTION by devising different zones (like a sitting nook and a bar area).

4. INCORPORATE GREENERY to create a lush look.

5. DISGUISE A DRAB CONCRETE FLOOR with anything from outdoor floor tiles to a statement rug.

6. HANG STRING LIGHTS from the ceiling for a cozier vibe that creates an ethereal effect at night.

7. INCLUDE AN ORNATE SCREEN to add privacy and introduce an interesting focal point.

8. DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT with pattern and colour. Small spaces like balconies afford you the opportunity to jump outside your comfort zone.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Debbie Travis 4-piece outdoor Rousseau **CONVERSATION SET,** $2,000, and 7-piece outdoor **DINING SET,** $2,200, Sears, sears.ca.

RUSTIC INSPIRATION

It's easy to see the influence of scenery like this idyllic old street in a Medieval Italian town near Debbie Travis's Tuscan villa on her rustic-chic Rousseau furniture sets (shown at left).

Plant Pairing

WHAT'S MORE ITALIAN THAN HAVING A POT OF FRESH HERBS LIKE ROSEMARY, THYME AND SAGE HANDY TO TOP EVERY ALFRESCO MEAL?

debbie travis

PRODUCER SARA CATION

You definitely know Debbie Travis, but did you know she does much more than decorate? Debbie also does product design, television (not only starring in but producing, too) and public speaking, as well as wine- and olive oil making, plus plays host at her Tuscan retreat. It raises the question: Is there anything Debbie *doesn't* do? We sat down with her to find out.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GEORGE ROSS (TUSCANY), ISTOCKPHOTO (PLANTER)

CANADIAN IDOL

Okay, she's technically a *British*-Canadian idol, but England-born Debbie Travis, who moved to Montreal at age 30, is without a doubt an icon on the stage of international decor. With five hit television shows (from *Debbie Travis' Painted House*, one of North America's first decorating shows, to *La Dolce Debbie*, airing now on the Oprah Winfrey Network), a regular home style advice column syndicated across the continent and numerous best-selling books, this former model is now a doyenne of the design world. And as if that weren't enough, she also runs a successful production company with her husband (hosting some of its shows and laying claim to four Gemini awards) and has designed several product lines. As far as we're concerned, all of that – coupled with the fact that she's notoriously nice – makes us want to claim her as *entirely* Canadian.

MODERN INSPIRATION

Take one look at the sleek kitchen in Debbie's London home (featured in our April 2012 issue) and you'll see modern hits that match the contemporary Chelsea conversation set (shown at left).

Plant Pairing

A SPIKY SNAKE PLANT OFFERS AN EASY-CARE SCULPTURAL ELEMENT FOR YOUR OUTDOOR SITTING AREA THAT CAN ALSO THRIVE INSIDE ONCE SUMMER'S OVER.

VERSATILE STYLE

You might call it a hazard of the job, but working on multiple makeover shows and doling out decorating advice to a wide variety of clients means Debbie has a multi-faceted sense of style that can make anyone feel at home. Take her new line of outdoor furniture and accessories for Sears Canada, which ranges from rustic (shown opposite) to modern (shown above). Though they seem completely different, they're both emblematic of Debbie's chic signature look: muted base pieces that can be punched up with bold, bright colours. And if you're decoratively daring like Debbie, you could try mixing the two styles. Turn the page to see how she used a streamlined outdoor dining set to offset the ancient environment of her Tuscan villa.

Debbie Travis 4-piece outdoor Chelsea **CONVERSATION SET,** $800, Sears, sears.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL (KITCHEN), ISTOCKPHOTO (PLANTER)

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Though Debbie has homes in Montreal (see our November 2012 issue) and London (featured in April 2012) as well as a downtown Toronto condo (where she graciously hosted us for tea while conducting this interview), she now spends most of her time in her newest slice of heaven: a 100-acre estate in a UNESCO World Heritage site in Tuscany, where she grows grapes for wine, olives for olive oil and lavender for bath products, in addition to hosting empowering retreats for women. The four-year process of converting the 400-year-old farm into the house of her dreams is covered in her new documentary series, *La Dolce Debbie*. Spoiler alert: To honour the villa's history while bringing it into the present day, she juxtaposed quintessential Tuscan rusticity with the latest modern pieces. The result? Perfect harmony.

DEBBIE'S

5 OUTDOOR MUST-HAVES

How to create a comfortable living area outdoors that you can enjoy from spring to fall.

1. **STYLISH FURNITURE** to create an outdoor room.
2. **SHADE** for respite from the sun.
3. **GREAT LIGHTING** for after the sun sets.
4. **TOSS CUSHIONS AND THROWS** to enjoy chilly evenings.
5. **FIRE PIT OR HEATER** to extend the season.

Debbie Travis reversible outdoor **TOSS CUSHION** in Navy, Red & Beige, $20, Sears, sears.ca.

We love the distressed edging of this melamine dinner plate.

Debbie Travis Crackle-finish **DINNER PLATE** in Red, $6, Sears, sears.ca.

TAKE DEBBIE HOME WITH YOU!

When shopping for her Tuscan estate, Debbie noticed that all mid-range outdoor furniture looked the same, so she turned to big European trade shows to find unique (yet pricier) options. Around the same time, Sears approached her to design a collection. "I had already been thinking about how to make mid-range outdoor furniture exciting," she says. We can see the inspiration, from the dinner plate in the same deep red as a door (1) Debbie spotted in the village to the toss cushion that's on trend with the Italian floor tiles in her villa's master bath (2).

PHOTOGRAPHY, MAX ROSENSTEIN (DEBBIE), GEORGE ROSS (DOOR KNOCKER, FLOOR TILES)

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high OR low?

We designed a botanically inspired sunroom on budgets befitting a seedling and a mature plant. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL NANGREAVES

HIGH $14,982

HIGH & LOW White **TUREEN** (used as planter), Speck and Stone, speckandstone.com; **TEACUP** (used as pot), Crown Flora Studio, crownflorastudio.com.

$438 US

1 Botanical linen canvas Cherry and Sunflower **PRINTS** (mounted on wooden dowels), $219 US each, The Evolution Store, theevolutionstore.com.

$165

2 Handmade faceted soldered glass **TERRARIUM,** Crown Flora Studio, crownflorastudio.com.

$1,200

3 Custom handmade polished steel **CONSOLE** with reclaimed wood top, Junction Wood + Metal Co., junctionwoodandmetal.com.

$598

4 Turner bar-height black-finished metal **STOOLS** with adjustable swivel seats, $299 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$258 US

5 Beachcomber extra-large round hand-woven seagrass **BASKETS,** $129 US each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$6,320

6 Artisan Elite maple engineered hardwood **FLOORING** in Bracken Hill, $7.90 per sq. ft., Torlys, torlys.com.

$3,950

7 Hand-knotted wool and bamboo silk Bal Harbour **RUG** in Antique White & Ocean, 6′ x 8′, Weavers Art, weaversart.com.

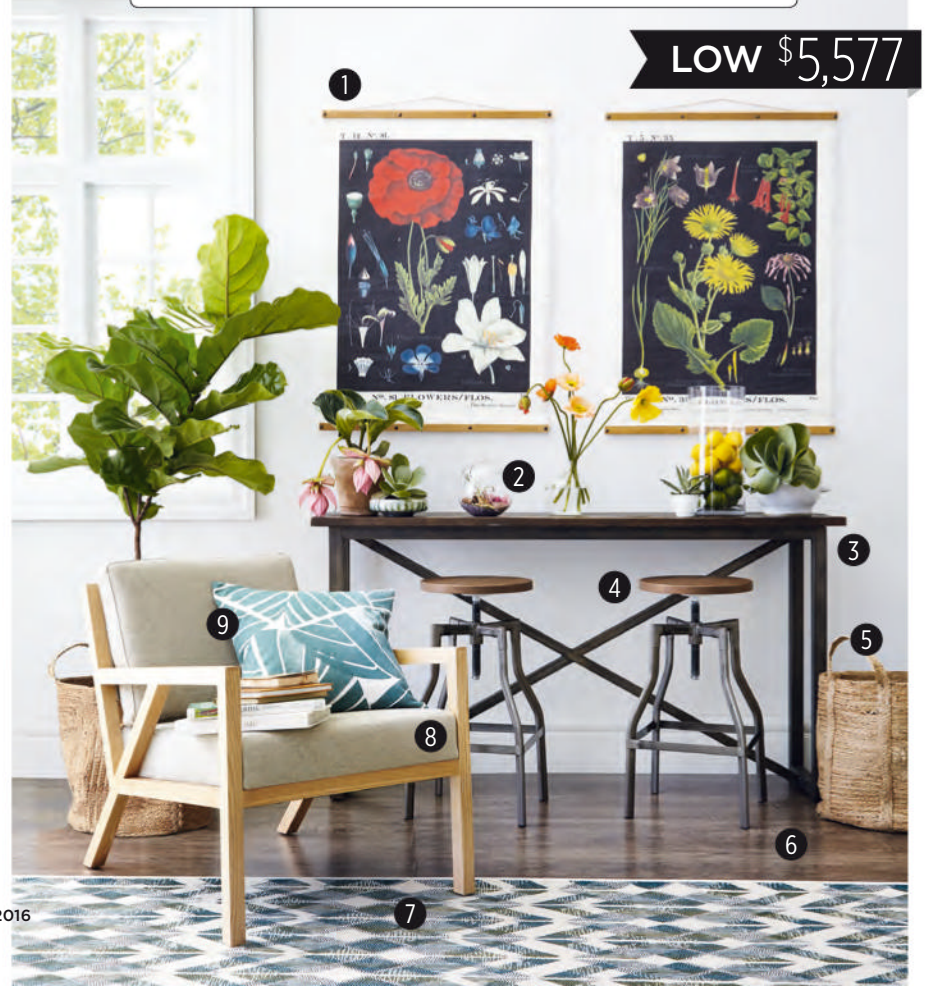
$1,999

8 Huppe beech Citta **ARMCHAIR** with leather cushions in Boston White, Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca.

$54

9 Polyester Swaying Palms **TOSS CUSHION** with down alternative insert, 20″ x 20″, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

LOW $5,577



$238 US

1 Frayed cotton canvas botanical No.81 and No.33 **PRINTS** (mounted on wooden dowels), $119 US each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$55

2 Hand-blown glass **TERRARIUM,** Crown Flora Studio, crownflorastudio.com.

$649

3 Steel Dark Leaf **CONSOLE** with reclaimed barnwood top, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

$318

4 Bar-height powder-coated iron Burke **STOOLS** with adjustable swivel elm seats in Grey, $159 each, Structube, structube.com.

$50

5 Woven **BASKETS,** $25 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$2,960

6 Sugar Hill laminate **FLOORING** in Smoke Plank, $3.70 per sq. ft., Torlys, torlys.com.

$329

7 Viscose blend Bohemian **RUG,** 5′ x 8′, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

$950

8 Gus Modern ash Truss **ARMCHAIR** with polyester Leaside cushions in Driftwood, Stylegarage, stylegarage.com.

$28

9 Cotton **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** 20″ x 20″, $15, duck feather **INSERT,** $13, H&M Home, hm.com.

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COME FIND
YOUR TRUE HUE
ONLY AT THE HOME DEPOT®
More saving.
More doing.®

LEAFY GREENS

Greenery has a way of livening up any room, and when that verdant touch doesn't require any maintenance *and* remains bright year-round, it's a clear winner. From banana to palm leaves, the motifs of these **printed toss cushions** have a moving quality that calls to mind a tropical beach – a sunny ambience every Canadian household can use.

Polyester Palm Fronds with polyester insert, 16″ x 16″, $51, Zazzle, zazzle.ca.

Cotton, 20″ x 20″, $15, with duck feather insert, $13, H&M Home, hm.com.

Assembly Home cotton Printed Palms with polyester blend insert, 18″ x 18″, $49, Urban Outfitters, urbanoutfitters.com.

Polyester Swaying Palms with down alternative insert, 20″ x 20″, $54, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

got the hots for bots?

Some like to decorate with piles of books, others with an array of candles. But if you ask us, nothing beats the impact of plants, and this less-is-more tableau is a case in point. The key to this look is the negative space, created by loosely arranged unobtrusive glass vessels. The plantings are few but carefully chosen, varying in height, colour and texture. And don't forget an element of surprise – did you notice the animal figurines in the terrariums?

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school's in session

Introduced in the early 19th century, oversized **botanical charts** were a staple in classrooms throughout Europe, used to educate youth about the anatomy of various flora (such as the sunflower) and fauna. As close to the real deal as you can get, our High prints are exact copies of German charts from the 1950s and '60s. In fact, they're produced by the original internationally recognized manufacturer using the same film and methods.

first fiddle

A top choice among designers, the fiddle-leaf fig tree is one haute houseplant. Look for the Little Fig variety, which won't outgrow your ceiling, and trim the side branches and lower leaves to achieve the popular shape.

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A long day doesn't seem so daunting when you come home to stylish decor. That's why we love these **slender minimalistic consoles.** Whether your place is ultra-modern or a bit rustic (and whatever your budget), there's a choice for you.

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Custom handmade polished steel with reclaimed wood top, Junction Wood + Metal Co., junctionwoodandmetal.com.

$749

Blu Dot powder-coated steel Minimalista with black mirror top, Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca.

$649

Steel Dark Leaf with reclaimed barnwood top, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

$389

Antiqued hammered iron Gaya with mango wood top, Structube, structube.com.

LOW

PHOTOGRAPHY, SHUTTERSTOCK (FIG TREE)

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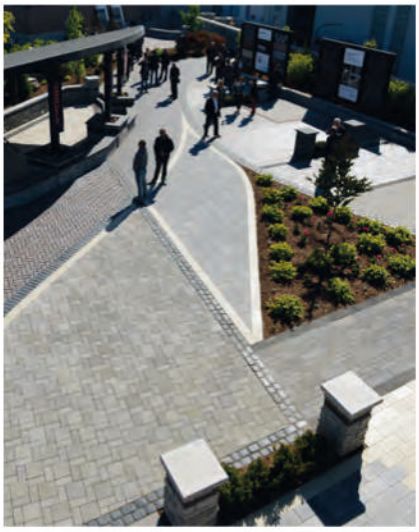

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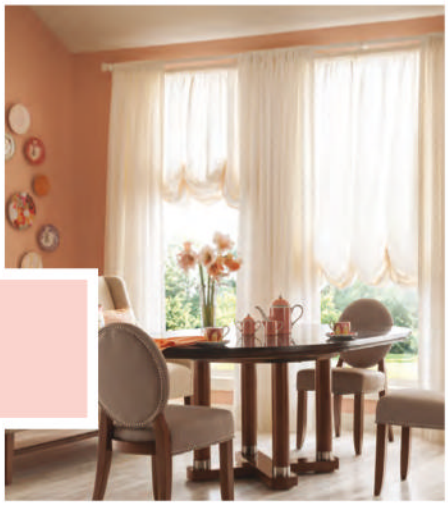
ROMANTIQUE

Pale pink becomes a power colour and takes center stage as one of two hues chosen by Pantone as Color of the Year. Large-scale blooms and botanicals bring nature inside. Grey reigns as a classic complement to lighter, chalkier hues. Metals, woods, glass, and ceramics bring textural interest and keep pastel rooms from becoming too cutesy.



GLOBAL ARTISTRY

Inspired by travel and adventure, the trend is a modern take on global patterns, fabrics, and crafts. It's all in the mix. Embroidery, caning, animal hides, even macramé, give a handcrafted, organic feel to accessories. Soft pastels contrast with deep blues and greys. Ethnic accents complete the look.

MASCULINE MÉLANGE

Black continues to be a strong colour preference for walls, windows, and metal accents. Vintage details add a timeless quality. Rustic woods contrast with classic shapes in furnishings. Leather, copper, wire, and natural elements give texture and shine throughout a room.

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A Toronto couple with a shared vision cooks up a dramatic renovation plan for their outdated kitchen and backyard.

TEXT MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARK BURSTYN

RENO ROMANCE

Thanks to a generous helping of black paint and a good dose of stainless steel, Melissa Evans-Lee and John Lee's Toronto kitchen oozes sophistication. Tidy open storage and the large original window mask its modest proportions.

SOMETIMES FOOD CAN REALLY SPEAK TO KIDS.

Moms just know.

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They say a renovation can lead to a separation, but that couldn't be further from the truth for this Toronto couple. "We agree on absolutely everything design-wise," says Melissa Evans-Lee, marketing director of Bayview Village Shopping Centre, about her media CEO hubby, John Lee. "Sometimes I think we share a brain."

The pair's united vision for the three-bedroom Victorian fixer-upper they purchased in the city's west end in 2006 was clear – and ambitious (including transforming one bedroom into a dressing room and annexing a second to expand a bathroom). Over the course of a decade, every room was redone, but it all began with the kitchen, a priority for these foodies and skilled home chefs.

A total gut job liberated the 135-square-foot pass-through cooking space from its decrepit pale yellow-painted wooden cabinetry, dark green linoleum flooring and outdated basic appliances. The original window and radiator were left intact, lending old-world character to newly installed budget-friendly modern finishes in white (namely glossy prefab lower cabinets and ceramic floor tiles) and stainless steel (including floating shelves, appliances

COOK'S KITCHEN

▲ "I'm a very visual person, so I like to have everything on display," says Melissa with regard to the plenitude of open storage. But she does admit that keeping everything orderly requires a certain personality type ("Can you say OCD?" she says with a laugh). Everyday dishes and oft-used ingredients are kept in sight on floating shelves and in the island's open base, while overflow is hidden away in a small pantry. Black and white accessories throughout look fancy and offer function.

◀ "I think saying dark walls make a room feel dim or small is a complete fallacy," says Melissa. "Black adds something really amazing to the mix: drama." Case in point is the group of picture ledges she uses to display her best-loved cookbooks, which rivals some of the most affecting art walls.

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and a range back guard, as well as a custom free-standing wood-topped island).

Oh, and the walls were painted black. When asked about the bold choice, Melissa laughs. "Is it? We didn't get the memo," adding that nearly every wall in the house was painted a dark colour, from charcoal to navy, for a dose of drama. Black also spills out to the backyard, where the pressure-treated pine deck, fence and banquette were all coated with the shade in 2010. Choice furnishings and accessories (in a chic black and white scheme that matches the interior) create an integrated outdoor dining space – "it's oven to patio table in about five steps," says Melissa – that plays host to dinners *à deux* and mingling guests alike.

When you factor out the quarrelling spouse and factor in a great contractor, it's no surprise that this duo's appetite for change remains, even 10 years later. "Appliance updates will probably be next," says Melissa. "We'd love one of those glass-door fridges." But she does admit there are no major alterations left to make. "In other words, we need a new house to renovate!"

PRETTY PATIOS

▲ Whether dining on buffet-style tacos or a four-course meal, guests enjoy interior-calibre comfort on vintage Bertoia chairs and the newly built-in banquette, which Melissa cleverly cushioned using dog beds and indoor toss cushions. "Everything is movable," she says. "These chairs can easily go in the dining room, the toss cushions in the den."

◀ Tucked into a corner of the backyard, this stone patio outfitted with vintage metal seating and a hand-me-down coffee table is a serene spot for lazing around with a book under the pleasant shade of two mature trees. Low-maintenance potted ferns add fluffy texture.

KITCHEN: CONTRACTING, custom **RANGE BACK GUARD,** Helping Hands Environmental; Black 2132-10 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CABINETRY, COOKTOP, OVEN, RANGE HOOD, FLOATING SHELVES, CABINETRY HARDWARE,** IKEA; **COUNTERTOP,** Avanti Marble & Granite; **PICTURE LEDGES,** CB2; blue **DUTCH OVEN,** Le Creuset; glass **CANISTERS** with glass lids, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore. **BACKYARD:** Dark Secret 00NN 05/000 **FENCE PAINT,** Dulux Paints; **RUGS,** CB2; yellow, solid black and graphic black floral **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Indigo; black-and-white-patterned **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; white **VASE,** Teatro Verde.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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START FROM SCRATCH

TEXT SARA CATION

Downsizing can be daunting, but when you have the help of two dedicated designers, things start looking up.

PHOTOGRAPHY
TRACEY AYTON

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Rarely does the term "blank slate" ring as true as when it comes to decorating a new space. But in Terence Little and Ben Clermont's case, it had a double meaning: They moved into a 1,070-square-foot new-build penthouse in central Vancouver, which, as Terence describes, "was white, white, white, everywhere we looked," and they brought virtually nothing with them. Moving from a house more than twice the size, the couple purged everything but their artwork and a lone armchair, so they could start decorating from scratch.

But where does one even begin with a clean canvas like this? "With homework," advises designer Jamie Deck of Shift Interiors, who teamed up with Lindsay McLennan of Motto Interior Design to masterfully execute a design Terence and Ben would love while maximizing their limited space. "We have a pretty intense interview process," explains Jamie. "We ask our clients to do lots of colour research and to find inspiration photos." What the couple turned in revealed a proclivity for masculine interiors with simple, clean lines, Mid-Century Modern-style furnishings and bold hits of black. "We wanted the condo to look interesting,

LEFT Homeowners Terence Little and Ben Clermont love the bright and airy builder-grade kitchen. The small island boasts ample prep space and storage for avid home chef Ben's many cookbooks.

DESIGN, Shift Interiors, shift-interiors.com, Motto Interior Design, designmotto.com; **CONTRACTING,** Zentech Interiors; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **STOOLS,** Mint; **WALL PLANTERS,** Light + Ladder; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Richelieu Hardware.

TOP LEFT & TOP RIGHT The kitchen is sleek and streamlined but gets plenty of interest from the glass-tiled backsplash (which offers an ethereal effect) and the dishes displayed on open shelving.

"A large dining area was crucial for Terence and Ben, who love cooking and entertaining," says designer Jamie Deck of Shift Interiors. "But in order to achieve that, we needed to borrow some space." So Jamie and designer Lindsay McLennan of Motto Interior Design had the doors of a large closet removed and a banquette with deep storage drawers installed in its recess. The resulting nook can seat up to eight people with the benches from the entryway pulled into use. Harley the Australian Labradoodle approves of the new digs as well.

Wrought Iron 2124-10 **ACCENT WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **DINING TABLE & BANQUETTE CUSHIONS,** Omega Custom Furniture and Design; **DINING CHAIRS,** Mint; custom **BANQUETTE,** Fullbore Design; *Coogee Wave* **ARTWORK,** Gray Malin; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Once a Tree Furniture; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Crate and Barrel; **VASE, BOWL,** BoConcept; **CANDLESTICKS,** CB2.

FAR LEFT The designers incorporated many Mid-Century Modern-inspired pieces like this Eames-style lounger in the living area ("It offers the best views in the condo," says Terence, referring to not only the view of the park, but also that of Ben cooking).

LOUNGER, Rove Concepts; **SIDE TABLE,** Mint; *Passager Silencieux* **ARTWORK,** Karine Léger; **FLOOR LAMP,** YLighting.com.

BELOW Not just a media unit, the contemporary cabinetry in the living area also displays tchotchkes, stores cleaning supplies, hides an unsightly air conditioner and boasts a fully stocked bar. The wall-mounted unit floats, so even though it's charcoal grey and nearly 10 feet tall, it feels light and airy instead of oppressive.

Wrought Iron 2124-10 **FEATURE WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SECTIONAL,** Mint; custom **STORAGE UNIT,** Fullbore Design; **RUG,** Burritt Bros. Carpet & Floors.

comfortable and modern, but not overly designed," says Ben. "Our top requests were to create a space that's efficient and easy to entertain in, as well as to highlight the view outside," adds Terence.

Meeting the homeowners' requirements of having both a large sectional and a dining table that could seat eight – not to mention ample storage throughout the open-concept layout – proved to be a challenge for the designers. So they cleverly transformed the front closet into a dining nook; in the living area, they created a custom storage unit that boasts an asymmetrical mix of shelves, cabinets and drawers, as well as wooden panels (under which is a bar) to break it all up. "Those design choices were critical to the success of the results," says Ben. And, of course, there are many double-duty furnishings, such as the kitchen stools that can be pulled into the living area for parties or the entryway benches that provide extra seating around the dining table.

Jamie's favourite aspect of the design is the high-contrast colour scheme. "I love how black or deep grey and white creates light," she says. "People think dark shades will make a space too dark, but if you use them in small doses, the effect is the opposite." Also, as requested, the palette highlights the view. "When you put grey on a wall that has windows overlooking mountains and the ocean, it brings the greenery inside," says Jamie.

Though the stunning space is now a far cry from the blank slate it once was, we'll call it a fitting coincidence that so much of the design is hinged on *slate* grey.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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TURNING A NEW *leaf*

PRODUCER MARISSA PRETORIUS | **TEXT** MANDY ALLEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** WARREN HEATH | **STYLING** SVEN ALBERDING

Not since the '70s have houseplants enjoyed such popularity, and it's little wonder they've made a comeback: Displays of greenery are a soothing tonic for today's busy lifestyle. Here are a few fresh ways to bring the outside in.

GATHERING GREENERY

In a large open area, compose a grouping of greenery to create focus. Here, the mixed-and-matched assortment of complementary glass vessels extends from the tabletop to the floor, adding a casual weightlessness to the display. An unruly trailing plant set against a white wall resembles a gorgeous verdant sculpture and gives warmth to this industrial-style loft space.

PRODUCTION, OPUSSTUDIO.CO.ZA; TEXT, PHOTOGRAPHY, STYLING, BUREAUX.CO.ZA

NATURE STUDY

Put a contemporary twist on the classic terrarium aesthetic by arranging plants, such as ferns and mosses, in clear glass beakers, vases and bowls. Exposed roots and soil are naturally beguiling.

LIVING SCREEN

Define different zones in an open-concept layout by creating an airy room divider with plants. The juxtaposition of precise geometric lines – the shelving units – and lush foliage escaping the containers imbues the space with an eclectic bohemian quality.

4 quick tips

- DO A BIT OF RESEARCH – or ask garden centre staff – to find out the specific care requirements for optimal growth and longevity of particular species.
- CONSIDER GROWING CONDITIONS, such as light, temperature, humidity, watering, feeding and potting (as well as repotting).
- SELECT PLANTS with varied shapes, textures, colours and patterns for graphic effect.
- GROUP PLANTS the way you would accessories, and display them on a tabletop, mantel or shelf.

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Conjure up the charming atmosphere of a Victorian botanist's study by displaying greenery in an antique cabinet, shop fitting or other quirky shelving unit. For maximum whimsy and a nostalgic appeal, apothecary bottles and beakers make ideal containers. Scour vintage shops and flea markets for old gardening accessories to include in the composition.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL

SPRING FLING

Welcome the season of petals, pastels and pure pretty style. This issue, we're embracing the casual-chic vibe that comes along with the burgeoning blooms, softer air and sunnier days of May, and allowing the luxury of indoor-outdoor living to put a fresh spring in our step.

pretty in pink

One determined designer takes on the task of making this Victorian stunner beautiful inside and out.

TEXT LAURA MUIR

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY VAN BERKEL

STYLING, CHRISTINE HANLON & MORGAN LINDSAY

Elements like the curvaceous loveseats, Scandi-style brass armchairs and salvaged wood coffee table lend the living room a casual yet refined aesthetic. A built-in bench gives a bay window purpose.

DESIGN, Doyle Design Group, 416-317-6344; Great White 2006 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **LOVESEATS, ARMCHAIRS, THROW,** Elte; **COFFEE TABLE,** Renaissance Home; custom **WINDOW SEAT,** New Look Renovations; floral **WINDOW SEAT & TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **ROMAN SHADE FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **DRAPERY & CUSHION SEWING** (throughout), H. Sewing Custom Drapery; **RUG,** Allan Rug Co.; **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** (on settee), Primavera; **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** (throughout), Sweet Woodruff.

OPPOSITE The pink front door complements the pretty scheme inside and makes the residence stand out.

Wild Pink 2080-40 **FRONT DOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Sescolite.

The second bay window, which looks out onto the lush front garden, creates an intimate sitting area in the living room. Chairs from the homeowners' previous house were recovered in a sophisticated floral fabric.

ARMCHAIR FABRIC, Designer Fabrics; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **POUFFE,** The Cross Decor & Design.

OPPOSITE The living room's wall colour – white with a lilac undertone – was the jumping-off point for the home's feminine scheme. "This white makes everything feel so fresh," says designer Margie Doyle White (pictured).

Feathers **PRINT** by Paule Marrot, Natural Curiosities; **MIRROR,** The Cross Decor & Design; **SCONCES,** Lampcage.

"I call it the House of Pink," says designer Margie Doyle White.

That's not to say that this home in Toronto's historical Cabbagetown neighbourhood is anywhere near girly or frou-frou. A neutral palette, a mix of traditional items with a few modern pieces and strong architectural character keep this 3,000-square-foot detached Victorian sophisticated and refined. And, in fact, so does the pink.

When Raewyn and Charlie Fahlenbock purchased the house in 2014 for its coveted location, spacious layout (the structure was actually two dilapidated semi-detached rowhouses that were restored and turned into one home eight years ago) and good bones, the interior's orange and brown palette was out of sync with its ultra-charming exterior. "It was a relatively new reno, but it made me think of macramé hanging planters," says Margie. "On the outside, you saw this beautiful Victorian, but once inside, you felt like you were stuck in the '70s. The two didn't talk to each other."

Charlie, a sales manager, and Raewyn, a stay-at-home mom taking time off from managing her family's horse-breeding operation, share the house with their daughters, Olive, 2, and five-month-old Juniper. The couple wanted to bring back the property's original charm, as well as create a cozy family-friendly retreat with a farmhouse feel. "Cabbagetown

LEFT In the kitchen, see-through elements like the stools keep the look bright and airy.

Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT** (throughout, except living room), Benjamin Moore; **STOOLS,** Elte; **PRINT,** Natural Curiosities.

LEFT, BELOW Homeowner Raewyn Fahlenbock with two-year-old daughter Olive.

RIGHT & BOTTOM A reclaimed wood trestle table surrounded by linen-covered chairs gives the dining room a laid-back vibe. A large-scale drum pendant light on a pulley anchors the table. The built-in shelving unit lined with lilac grasscloth wallpaper provides character.

MILLWORK, New Look Renovations; **WALLPAPER,** Primavera; **DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS,** Restoration Hardware; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **RUG,** Allan Rug Co.; **MIRROR,** The Cross Decor & Design; custom **PENDANT LIGHT,** Lampcage; **PENDANT LIGHT FABRIC,** Tessuti Uno.

is like a quaint village that's separate from the city," says Raewyn. "So we wanted to give the space that same escape-from-the-city vibe."

For Margie, formerly a designer on W Network's *Take This House and Sell It*, the tricks to injecting the space with character were keeping the layout intact and adding or updating architectural details; replacing the tired, dark kitchen with something timeless and white; and incorporating key elements to create an urban English farmhouse aesthetic.

Enhancing the bright sunny house is its soft palette of taupes, whites and, of course, pinks, which stemmed from the living room's wall paint colour. "It's white with just a hint of lilac, so it's livable," says Margie. "I started with this one hue and then added a kiss of it throughout the entire place via drapery and toss cushions." The original red oak floors got a dose of white, too. "It worked out really well because the white-stained floors give off a pinky tone," she says.

The kitchen's high ceilings allowed for chunky crown moulding, and glass-fronted upper cabinets with an "X" detail add even more architectural interest. A backsplash of greyish taupe ceramic subway tiles offers a soft hit of colour in the all-white space.

Custom **CABINETRY & RANGE HOOD,** New Look Renovations; Oxford White CC-30 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; marble **COUNTERTOPS,** Crystal Tile & Marble; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Saltillo Imports; **RANGE,** Tasco; **FAUCET,** Dupont Plumbing Supplies; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Restoration Hardware; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's.

"Because the open-concept kitchen and family room look out onto the backyard, everything had to flow and relate."

OPPOSITE The former garage, which was basically a windowless stucco box, was supplanted by a coach house-style structure. Its board-and-batten siding, shingled roof and shuttered windows now give the backyard a good dose of character. It also serves as a charming backdrop for the alfresco dining area.

Outdoor **DINING SET** (painted), Restoration Hardware; **SCONCE,** Sescolite; **TABLECLOTH,** Zara Home.

LEFT The lilac and pink plants throughout the backyard tie in with the home's interior palette.

SCONCE, Sescolite.

BELOW A cedar deck and pergola define the outdoor sitting area and provide a shady spot to lounge in the backyard.

Outdoor **SOFA, ARMCHAIRS & COFFEE TABLE,** Fresh Home & Garden; **STOOL,** Elte; **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Tessuti Uno.

In the backyard, the shady sitting area (defined by a cedar deck and pergola), large dining space and coach house-style garage boast the same pretty pinks and lilacs as the inside. "We continued the theme outdoors," says Raewyn. "Because the open-concept kitchen and family room look out onto the backyard, everything had to flow and relate."

The seamlessness between inside and out and from room to room creates the sense of calm Raewyn and Charlie were after for their farmhouse-in-the-city retreat, and it all starts at the front door with a wink of pink. "When we bought the property, the interior didn't do this place any justice – it was disjointed and devoid of any character," says Raewyn. But now that couldn't be any further from the truth.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Intimate and inviting, the eat-in area of this Vancouver home's kitchen is a favourite spot of the family who lives here. From the Eames chairs to the Nelson Propeller pendant light, Mid-Century Modern furnishings lend a timeless look, while the sunny palette keeps it fresh.

DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, BattersbyHowat Architects, battersbyhowat.com; **CONTRACTING,** Powers Construction; **MILLWORK** (throughout), Morrison Woodwork; Mountain Peak White OC-121 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE,** Eames **DINING CHAIRS,** Livingspace Interiors; **BANQUETTE UPHOLSTERY,** Bloom Furniture Studio; **ROLLER SHADES,** WestsideWindow Coverings; **FLOORING** (throughout), A.S. Hardwood Floors; Nelson **PENDANT LIGHT,** GR Shop by Gabriel Ross; **TOSS CUSHION,** Crate and Barrel; **LUMBAR CUSHION,** CB2.

TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

MODERN FAMILY

In this from-the-ground-up project, BattersbyHowat Architects delivers a minimalistic yet cozy common area for a family of four.

THE TERM

"cozy modern" may sound like a bit of an oxymoron to most, but to David Battersby and Heather Howat of architecture and design firm Battersby-Howat Architects, it's almost a mantra. "Modern doesn't have to mean cold and repelling," says David, who, along with Heather, has designed many spaces that reaffirm the fact. And that's precisely why these homeowners – a pair of lawyers with two preteen children – hired the firm to design and build their 3,900-square-foot Vancouver house from the ground up. "They wanted a contemporary space they would feel comfortable in," says David. "And after they toured some of our previous projects, they knew we could deliver the style they sought."

Since the homeowners' former abode was getting demolished to make way for the new one, they had a clear idea of how to take advantage of the sloping site. "Our clients knew they wanted an open-concept living space on the main level of a three-storey structure that would showcase the surrounding scenery," says David. "So while you enter the front door at grade, by the time you get to the back of the house, you're almost a full storey above ground." This spells stunning views from the living room and kitchen, where the family spends most of its time, lounging, cooking and doing homework. "It was essential for us to have a place that would encourage our kids to stay and hang with us rather than retreat to their rooms," says one of the homeowners, who also wanted a large area for entertaining their extended family.

The open-concept main floor delivers just that, from the 12-seater dining room and the strikingly expansive kitchen

Subtle colours in the pale blue back-painted-glass backsplash and island base, as well as the turquoise accents in the eat-in area, soften the sleek white kitchen, while oak cabinetry warms it up. Having open shelving in a few intimate places, such as the eat-in area, gives the home-owners an opportunity to display favourite items and family photos, but keeps the open-concept space feeling far from cluttered.

Woodlawn Blue HC-147 **ISLAND BASE PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; quartz **COUNTERTOPS,** Patra Stone Works; **APPLIANCES,** Midland Appliance; **FAUCET,** Splashes Bath & Kitchen; **STOOLS,** Inform Interiors; **CABINETRY HARDWARE** (throughout), Lee Valley Tools; white **TOSS CUSHION,** West Elm.

OPPOSITE The central staircase, hidden behind a sculptural screen, adds an artistic architectural element that was also cost-effective. "The screen that's providing the guard is also supporting every stair tread," says David. "So it's interesting but also essential."

SECTIONAL, Livingspace Interiors; custom **FIREPLACE,** BC Coastal Energy; custom **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Powers Construction; *Gorse and Sky, 2008* and *Fallen Oak Tree, 2011* **ARTWORK** by Scott McFarland, Monte Clark Gallery; white **UMBRELLA STAND,** Room In Order; multi-coloured **LUMBAR CUSHIONS,** Provide.

ABOVE The living area's glass nesting coffee tables are a light and airy counterpoint to the fireplace's cement hearth, which doubles as extra seating.

SIDECHAIRS, COFFEE TABLE, Inform Interiors; **SIDE TABLE,** P+A Furniture; **RUG,** Salari Fine Carpet Collections; **LUMBAR CUSHION,** CB2; glass **VASES,** 18Karat.

TOP RIGHT The creative forces behind Battersby-Howat Architects, David Battersby and Heather Howat, offer not only architecture services but also interior design and landscaping. In fact, it's one of the things that attracted the homeowners to the firm. "We felt there would be greater cohesion to the overall project," says one of the homeowners, "which proved to be true."

RIGHT David describes the style of home that he and Heather designed as West Coast modern. The mix of glass, cement and wood on the front delivers a quiet but statement-making modernism. On the top floor, recessed windows with extended side walls that angle outward add a feeling of privacy.

(with its whopping 17-foot-long island and cozy eat-in nook) to the light-filled living area, where the family enjoys spotting eagles soaring by through the huge windows. "The living room is so bright, we barely ever turn the lights on in there," says one of the homeowners. "We never appreciated the moon or the changing sky as much as we have from that sectional. It just begs you to sit down and stare outside."

An abundance of natural light was necessary to the overall design – especially since Vancouver winters can be so dreary – so glass panels stretching from the basement to the top floor were installed on either side of the house. Other modern architectural features include the wooden staircase hidden behind a sculptural slatted screen and a sleek gas fireplace surrounded by cement slabs (the top half had to be poured on-site) and flanked by crisp white cabinetry.

"At extended family dinners, the kids and their cousins play with trains or Lego on the fireplace's cement hearth," says one of the homeowners. "There'll often be a group of adults chatting and watching from the sectional, as well as another gathered around the kitchen island." And that's not a coincidence. With clear sightlines across all its main living areas, this home is meant to prompt a feeling of togetherness, despite its sprawling size. It's spacious yet intimate, contemporary yet cozy – and that's all by design.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TEXT
CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY
STACEY BRANDFORD

STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT &
STACY BEGG

a case for *style*

Designer Jennifer Ferreira helps a Toronto couple reach a design verdict that's both practical and polished.

Contemporary artwork and kids' colouring books; a travertine dining table and a teepee fort – these anomalous pairings are the norm at Courtney Toomath-West and Ken West's Toronto house. "This is a family home," says Courtney. "Our daughters can play, and my husband and I can retreat to formal rooms, all in one fairly small space."

Courtney and Ken, both lawyers, bought the 1,800-square-foot rowhouse in 2008 before their girls – Honor, now 6, and

OPPOSITE "The entryway feels grand for a 16-foot-wide house," says designer Jennifer Ferreira. The oversized mirror creates the illusion of space, and the large pendant light complements the black trim on the sisal runner.

DESIGN, Ferreira Design, ferreiradesign.ca; Behr Silver Tradition ICC-23 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; Racoon Fur 2126-20 **DOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **CONSOLE, BENCH & MIRROR,** Ferreira Design; **STAIR RUNNER** (customized with black trim), **PENDANT LIGHT,** Elte.

RIGHT Homeowners Courtney Toomath-West and Ken West love to entertain and often host dinner parties, so Jennifer designed chairs for lounging in the dining room. A sculptural light fixture illuminates the travertine table, a family heirloom.

Behr Silver Setting PWL-89 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; custom **DINING CHAIRS,** custom **DRAPERY** (throughout), Ferreira Design; *The Long Pass* **ARTWORK** (above sideboard), Michael Adamson; *Portobello Pollock* **ARTWORK,** Nicole Katsuras; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Lambert & Fils; brass **TRAY,** Elte.

Caroline, 4 – were born. "Ken and I had been living in a condo, but when we began to think about having kids, we yearned for the character of an older home," says Courtney. This Victorian, in the city's Little Italy neighbourhood, fit the bill. "I fell for its original plaster mouldings as well as its high arches and ceilings," she says. "It hadn't been updated in decades, but it was well loved, and I wanted to preserve its charm."

When the couple moved in, they replaced the existing light oak floors, which were in bad shape, with darker oak and, keeping their art collection in mind, painted the walls gallery-like neutral shades. "Initially, that was enough to make it ours," says Courtney. "But when I was pregnant, my nesting instincts kicked in and prompted major renovations." Before Honor was born the bathroom was updated, and before Caroline arrived the kitchen was expanded (by removing a wall between it and the den) and fitted with new cabinetry and appliances. Structurally the house was done, but decor-wise it still felt unfinished. "I needed help pulling everything together," says Courtney. "I mentioned this to a friend who knew the perfect person for the job."

That person was designer Jennifer Ferreira. "When I first saw Courtney and Ken's house, it simply needed finessing," she says. "I wanted to complement its architectural details, inject a tailored look and create a

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT Black drapery rods fitted with brass finials and drapes with a band of grey ribbon lend a sense of elegance and formality to the living room.

Custom **SOFA & TOSS CUSHIONS,** Ferreira Design; **DRAPERY RODS, FINIALS,** Restoration Hardware; **TABLE LAMPS,** Martha Sturdy.

LEFT & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM MIDDLE The grey lower cabinets add contrast to the mostly white kitchen, which is outfitted with Caesarstone countertops and stainless steel appliances.

KITCHEN CONTRACTING, Tipeq; custom **CABINETRY,** AyA Kitchens & Baths; **COUNTERTOPS,** Ciot; **BACKSPLASH TILES, FAUCET,** Home Hardware; **RANGE, RANGE HOOD,** Tasco; custom **BENCH CUSHION,** Ferreira Design; **STOOLS,** CB2; **RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Elte.

LEFT & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT "The Wests honeymooned in Morocco, so I channelled that look on their patio," says Jennifer. "The pendant light, side table and toss cushions resemble items found in a souk."

Madeline Weinrib **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Y & Co.; **LANTERN,** Restoration Hardware.

Jennifer updated the living room's outdated armchairs with sophisticated zebra-print fabric.

Decorator's White CC-20 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** Lee Jofa; **COFFEE TABLE,** Avenue Road; **RUG,** Elte; *A Pale Wonder Amongst the Fallen Leaves* **ARTWORK** by Matt Behan, Claire Oliver Gallery; **PICTURE LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; **THROW,** Hermès.

comfortable family space." Jennifer incorporated a few new and custom-made pieces into the decor, but says the transformation really started with the window coverings. "Drapes make a house feel like a home," she says. "I added them to all the principal rooms, hanging them above the window frames to create a sense of grandeur." Fabric was also a key element in updating the bedrooms. "I designed upholstered headboards in classic pretty shapes for the master bedroom and girls' room," says Jennifer. Even the doors got a makeover. "I replaced most of the existing crystal doorknobs with brass ones. It's a small touch that adds warmth."

The living room saw the biggest transformation. When the couple thought their fireplace dreams had been dashed – a wood-burning one violated bylaws, and a gas one required costly renovations – Jennifer suggested ethanol. "It burns clean, so you don't need a chimney or vent, and it gives off a surprising amount of heat," she says. Framed with new built-in bookcases and carefully duplicated plaster mouldings, it suits the space and is a favourite spot for relaxing. "Ken and I sit in here once our daughters have gone to bed," says Courtney. "We call it our 'grown-up space,' and that, I can attest, is something every family home should have."

"The master bedroom doesn't get a lot of light, so I wanted to brighten it up," says Jennifer. An airy wall colour, natural linen headboard and ikat-print bench do the trick.

Behr Nurture PWN-67 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; custom **HEADBOARD, NIGHTSTAND, BENCH & BEDSKIRT,** Ferreira Design; **BEDDING,** Restoration Hardware; **THROW,** Hermès.

BELOW In daughters Honor and Caroline's bedroom, the drapes match the pink linen headboards. "The fabrics can easily be changed if they ever tire of them," says Jennifer. Courtney added the princess sign for a little sparkle.

Behr Prelude to Pink PR-W6 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; custom **HEADBOARDS & BED-SKIRTS,** Ferreira Design; **NIGHTSTAND,** Pottery Barn Kids; **BEDDING,** Au Lit Fine Linens; princess **SIGN,** HomeSense; stuffed **BUNNY,** Elte.

ABOVE "I painted the bathroom walls white and replaced a dark wooden vanity with a white one for a more tailored look," says Jennifer (pictured right). A pink over-dyed rug lends a layer of softness and a pop of colour.

Decorator's White CC-20 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **VANITY,** Ferreira Design; **FAUCETS,** Ginger's; **RUG,** Elte; **MIRRORS,** IKEA.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

one pan PRIME TIME

What could be simpler on a busy weeknight than offering up a healthy one-pan meal? According to author Sarah Wilson of *The I Quit Sugar Cookbook*, not much. Here, we've culled our favourite single-dish creations from her inventive culinary repertoire for a satisfying dinner with minimal cleanup. If we're speaking your language, read on.

RECIPES SARAH WILSON

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT PALMER

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Crunchy CHICKEN SATAY *in a Pan*

CRUNCHY CHICKEN SATAY IN A PAN

PREP & COOK TIME **40 MINUTES** | SERVES **6**

- ½ cup crunchy natural peanut butter
- 2 tbsp tamari or soy sauce
- 1 tbsp coconut oil, melted
- 1 tsp chili flakes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 ¾″ knob of ginger, minced
- 6 chicken thighs or drumsticks (or a combo)
- 10 oz sugar snap peas, trimmed
- 1 bunch asparagus, ends snapped, spears halved
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup peanuts
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- 2 tbsp white sesame seeds

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Combine the peanut butter, tamari, coconut oil, chili flakes, garlic and ginger in a baking dish and mix well. Add the chicken pieces and toss around to coat. Place in the oven and bake for 15 minutes.

Remove the dish from the oven and artfully arrange the green veggies, onions, peanuts, lime wedges and sesame seeds around and over the chicken. Return to the oven and cook for another 10 minutes, or until the chicken is browned and thoroughly cooked; serve immediately.

RECALIBRATING PORK MEAL

PREP & COOK TIME **35 MINUTES** | SERVES **2**

- 2 bone-in pork chops, each about ¾″ thick (about 14 oz in total)
- 1 sweet potato, cut in half lengthwise and sliced into half moons (¼″ thick)
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tsp coconut oil
- 1 bulb fennel, sliced lengthwise into 8 wedges (the whole lot, including stems and fronds)
- 1 bunch asparagus, ends snapped, spears halved
- 1 firm peach or apple, cut into 8 wedges
- 1 tsp chopped fresh sage, rosemary or thyme
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar or sauerkraut brine
- Big splash of chicken broth or 2 to 3 frozen stock cubes
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Season the pork and sweet potato with salt and pepper. Heat the coconut oil in an ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the chops and sweet potato, turning once (about 3 minutes each side).

Lift the pork chops out briefly; add the fennel, asparagus, peach and herbs to the pan. Stir to combine, then return the pork to the pan, placing it on top of the veggies, fruit and herbs. Whisk the vinegar, broth and mustard together and pour over the lot. Place in the oven and cook for 15 minutes, until the pork is heated through; serve immediately.

Make it serve 6: After searing 6 chops in the skillet, transfer to a large baking dish with triple the amount of each of the remaining ingredients and cook the lot for 20 minutes.

Make it in a skillet: Alternatively, you can cook the lot in your pan – simply cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

Change the way you see salad.

Renée's Gourmet Dressing

LAMB ROAST *With Minted Pea Pistou*

LAMB ROAST WITH MINTED PEA PISTOU

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | SERVES **2**

1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
2 tsp chopped fresh oregano or ½ tsp dried
Juice of ½ lemon (use the other half for the Minted Pea Pistou, recipe below)
2 small cloves garlic, crushed
4 lamb chops
2 small red onions, skin left on, sliced into wedges (not quite down to the root, water lily-like)
1 red bell pepper, cut into chunks
1 yellow bell pepper, cut into chunks
2 small zucchini, sliced into rounds
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
6 cherry tomatoes
¼ cup black olives
¼ cup cubed feta cheese
Minted Pea Pistou (see recipe below)
Fresh mint or oregano leaves for garnish

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Combine the olive oil, oregano, lemon juice, garlic and lamb in a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate for at least 25 minutes (all day is fabulous).

Place the onions, bell peppers and zucchini in a large baking dish with a good drizzle of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake for 25 minutes.

Add the lamb chops, cherry tomatoes, olives and feta to the baking dish and cook for another 20 minutes, turning the chops after 10 minutes. Serve with Minted Pea Pistou and a sprinkling of mint or oregano leaves.

Minted Pea Pistou

½ cup frozen peas, blanched and cooled
½ cup fresh mint leaves
Zest and juice of ½ lemon
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Combine all the ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth.

To see more of Sarah Wilson's delicious recipes, check out The I Quit Sugar Cookbook *(Clarkson Potter, $36).*

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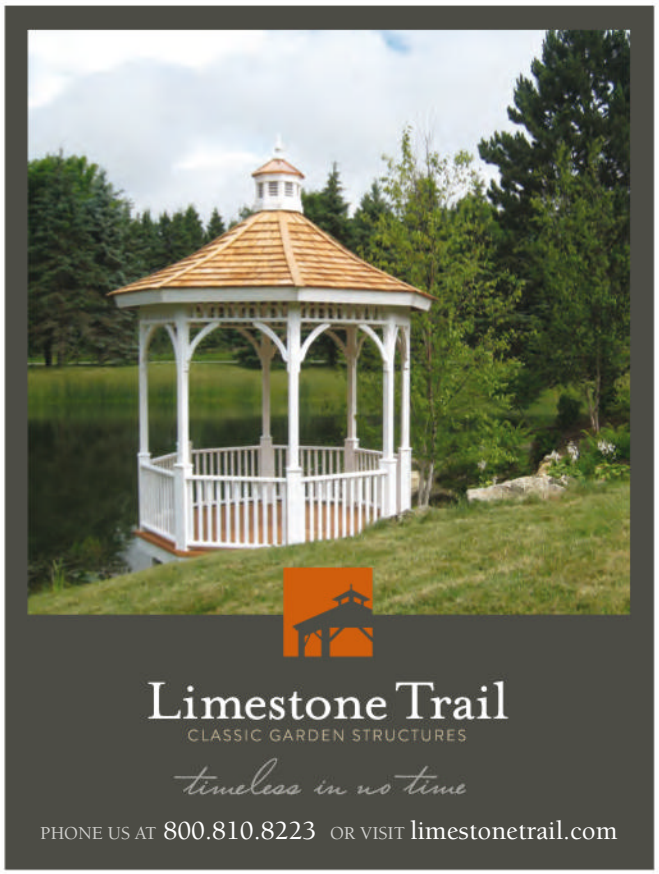

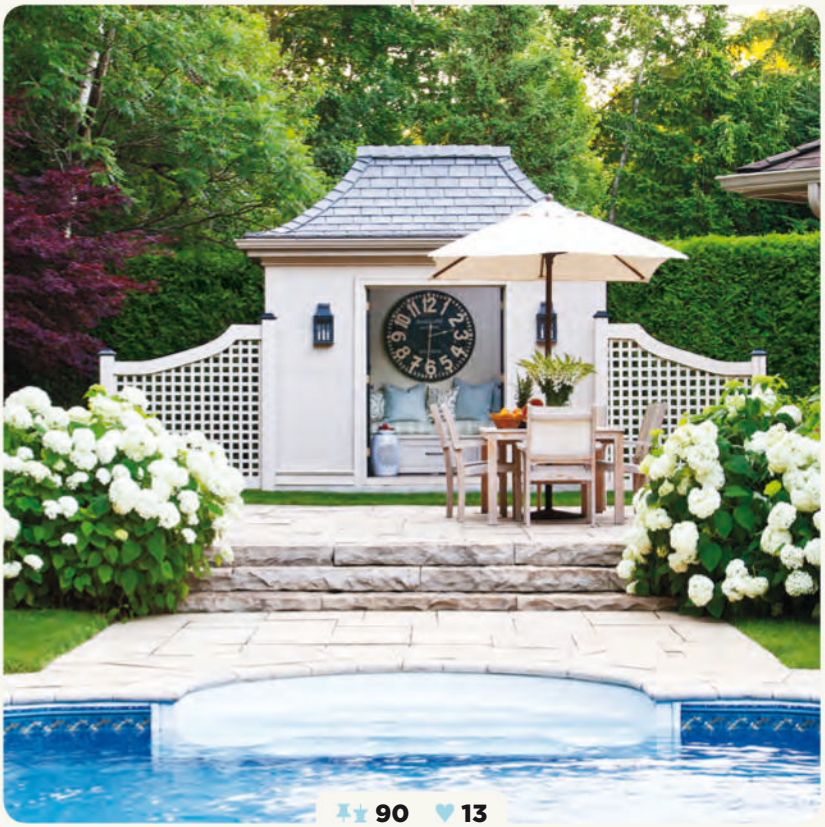

This month it's all about: OUTDOOR LIVING

Waking up to warm weather is some kind of wonderful. Consider the heat a reminder to make the most of your outdoor space, with anything from punchy fabrics to resin wicker furniture. After all, it's not so much about the square footage as it is about what you choose to do with it.

Follow our boards at **PINTEREST.COM/STYLEATHOME** and re-pin your favourite images.

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